

To whom it may concern,

This comment pertains to the elimination of the code test requirement for amateur radio licenses. I have mixed feelings about this because of past histories with public licensing. I remember when Citizens Band radio was licensed. I was KGX7322. CB was a pleasant experience with many families enjoying the privilege and parents not having to worry about what was said on the radio. Today the language and demeanor on CB is often too strong for alot of adults. Ham radio is still a pleasant experience. Those that have taken the time and effort to earn their privileges keep it that way. If we make it too easy to receive a license I feel Ham radio will go the way of CB. I understand that keeping it the way it is may not be feasible. If that is so then maybe a compromise could be met. If something has to give may I make the following suggestion. Keep all the mode (CW, Phone, Data, etc) allocations the same. Open most of the General Class Phone bands to no code licenses with a small portion of each band allocated to a code required license (Advanced or Extra)where the privileges for the three licenses are the same. Keep the Advanced and Extra Class allocations the same. The idea is to preserve the culture of Ham Radio and to keep morse code alive. While it may have limited use in the military or the government it is still a mode that can get the message across when all else fails. I feel that Morse Code is still a vital element for Homeland Security. It is a mode that is avaiable, easy to learn, and economical. If I was making the decision I would keep the code requirement as it currently stands. It is not hard to learn code at 5 words per minute and it allows you to talk with anyone in the world. I also think we cherish the things we work a little harder for.

Thank you,

Scott J. Royle KM5AV